Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The home was built in 1872. It is constructed of brick with wooden trim. The brick is painted yellow and the trim is brown. There are three floors plus a basement. The mansard roof is pierced by dormer windows which afford a view of the Ohio River. The roof is capped by a cast iron balustrade. The main facade is an L-shape plan with a porch tucked into the L. The surface of this porch as well as the side porch is mosaic tile. The spikes on the iron fence which encircles the house were originally gold leaf.

The ceilings on the first floor are $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, elsewhere they are 12 feet high. The ceiling in the living room is an oil painting which was done to match the original oriental carpet. In the study the ceiling is blocks of molded plaster. The one in the dining room is molded plaster with subtle color worked into the design.

The floors in the five main rooms and the hallways on the first floor are hardwood parquet. Each room has a different design.

all of the light fixtures are original and have been converted from gas with the exception of those on the third floor which are still gas. The chandeliers in the living room are gold leaf and were made especially for the room.

There are ten fireplaces. Each mantel is different in design and material. There is a hand-carved walnut one in the dining room, a tiny glazed tile one in the music room, and a cast iron one in a bedroom. The onyx mantel in the living room is twelve feet high and was added in 1893 when it was purchased at the Chicago Exposition. It had been entered as an exhibit by Tiffany's of New York.

stained glass is used extensively. The inner set of front doors has stained glass panels as do the two doors at the side. The upper section of the bay window and another window in the study plus the windows in the master bedroom are also stained glass. The wood lattices in the archways of the halls have stained glass worked into them.

with the exception of the living room, the cornices on the first floor are hand carved wood in a sphink-head design. The cornices in the living room as well as the ceiling molding and two 13 foot mirrors are gold leaf.

some original furniture is still in the home.

There is a large carriage house in the rear.

The home remains today as it was when it was built with only a few minor interior changes. It seems to be in good repair.

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as industrial leaders. "Churches, schools, and charitable enterprises have benefited by their gifts of more than \$3,000,000." Two of the city's high schools are named for Francis Joseph.

The home was purchased by John Fenderich and his sister Laura Gertrude Fenderich McCarthy, grandchildren of John A. deitz, and donated to the Daughters of Isabella. When Evansville became a diocese the home was sold to the Diocese and was used as the home of the first Bishop of Evansville until his death in 1972.

The house is located two blocks from the Ohio River in an area of historic homes. This was the finest residential area of early Evansville. The residents were responsible for establishing the business and civic institutions of the town. They were also involved in state and national affairs. A Governor of Indiana lived there as well as a U.S. Secretary of btate, two U.S. Ambassadors, some U.S. Congressmen and state representatives. The Area Plan Commission of Evansville is, at this time, drawing up an prdinance setting aside the area as a historic district. The Junior League of Evansville is working to get the entire area listed on the National register. Walking tours in the area are popular with residents and visitors. It displays most of the architectual styles popular in the Midwest from 1860 to 1920. The home is located within walking distance of the downtown hotels where conventions are held, the museum and three buildings already listed on the National Register. The Delta Queen docks about four blocks from the house and passengers often walk through the area.

The home, which is going to be for sale in the near future, is being considered for restoration and establishment as a living museum. Many of the original furnishings will be returned to it.

The house is significant as the residence of three prominent Evansville pitizens. It is most significant, however, as a well-preserved example of pid-American Nineteenth Century architecture.

Morlock, James E. The Evansville story. (1956), p. 64.

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